



## NEWS RELEASE

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## **Lancaster Couple Accused of Locking Daughter Up, Forcing Her to Use Bucket as Bathroom**

A Lancaster married couple are facing child abuse charges for allegedly forcing their two children to live in squalid conditions, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced today.

Deputy District Attorney Theodore Swanson said Titus Chidi Ebubechukwu (dob 11/16/66) and Mary Nkiruka Ebubechukwu (dob 1/10/63) are charged with three felony counts of child abuse and one felony count of false imprisonment by violence in case MA066030.

The couple pleaded not guilty yesterday and are due back on June 9 in Department A2 of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Antelope Valley Branch.

The Ebubechukwus' 4-year-old son was found walking by himself several blocks away from their home on May 13, the prosecutor said. Los Angeles County sheriff deputies later discovered that the defendants were not home at the time.

The defendant's 10-year-old daughter was later discovered in the home, inside a room locked with a chain from the outside, the prosecutor added. There was a bucket in the room that the girl had to use when she needed to go to the bathroom, Swanson said.

If convicted as charged, the Ebubechukwus face a maximum possible sentence of eight years and eight months in state prison.

The case remains under investigation by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Lancaster Station.

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**About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office**

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#) prosecuted more than 71,000 felony defendants and nearly 112,000 misdemeanor defendants.